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SUMMARY

SOVIET UNION

1. Comment on Soviet ratification of border and financial agreement with Iran (page 3).

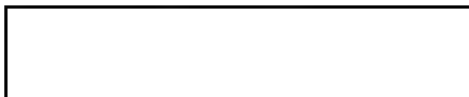
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SOUTH ASIA

4. Pakistani prime minister comments on Afro-Asian conference (page 5).

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SOVIET UNION



1. Comment on Soviet ratification of border and financial agreement with Iran:

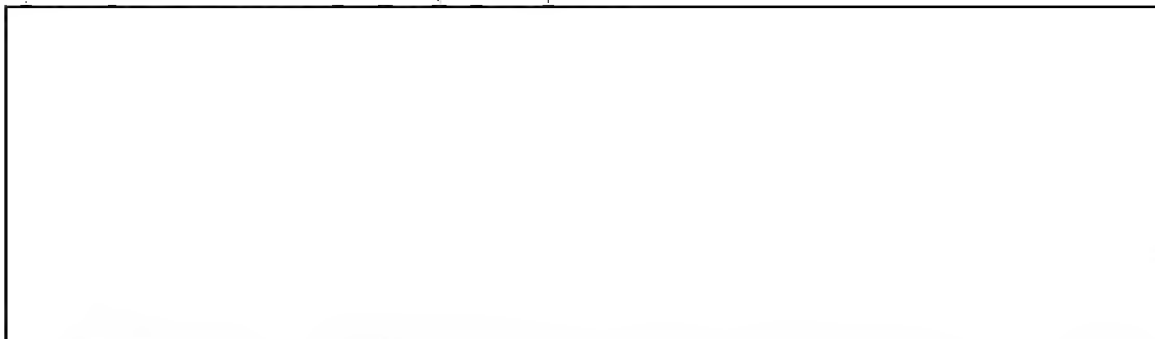


Soviet ratification of the border and financial agreement with Iran represents one more step in Moscow's campaign to encourage neutrality in uncommitted states along Soviet Orbit borders.

Current Soviet propaganda, by attempting to distort a simple border and financial agreement into a neutrality commitment, reveals apprehension that Iran may now feel freer to join a Western-sponsored defense bloc. It emphasizes that "dangerous tendencies" are pushing Iran along a path contrary to its treaty obligations with the USSR. A Pravda editorial promises that a policy of neutrality in Iran will receive the "full support of the USSR, which more than once came to the assistance of its friendly neighbor."

Until all provisions of the agreement are carried out, including demarcations of the border which will take at least 18 months, Iran is not expected to change its present policy of avoiding offense to the USSR.

The Shah recently proposed, however,  talks with Turkey, Iraq and Pakistan. His pro-Western inclination and his desire ultimately to link Iran formally with Western defense arrangements are not likely to be weakened by this Soviet gesture. Neutralist sentiment in Iran, which will probably be encouraged by the Soviet action, exerts virtually no influence on government policy. 



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SOUTH ASIA

4. Pakistani prime minister comments on Afro-Asian conference:

25X1 [redacted] The recently concluded Afro-Asian conference was a "75-percent victory for the free world," according to Pakistani prime minister Mohammad Ali.

Mohammad Ali expressed belief that Chou En-lai was impressed by the strength of anti-Communist forces. He contrasted the skillful parliamentary tactics of the pro-Western countries with Chou's apparent ignorance of parliamentary procedures and Prime Minister Nehru's extraordinary ineptness.

Nehru's loss of prestige was so marked as to frustrate his ambition to be the spokesman for Asia, according to Mohammad Ali, who pointed out that, despite Nehru's strong opposition, the conference had linked international control of nuclear weapons with disarmament. Mohammad Ali also noted that the conference had approved collective security agreements under the UN charter in the face of objections from Chou and Nehru and that Chou's sudden acceptance of the proposal had momentarily isolated the Indian premier.

Comment: Nehru from the start was cool toward an Afro-Asian conference and was anxious to prevent friction at Bandung. He may have been impressed by the strong anti-Communist stand taken by a number of nations, and as a result he may consider it necessary to reassess India's position on current Asian problems.

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